

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Feminism is basically the belief in the social, economic, and political equality of the sexes. Although largely originated in the West, feminism is manifested worldwide and it is represented by various institutions committed to acting on behalf of women's rights and interests. Throughout most of Western history, women were confined to the domestic sphere, while public life was reserved for men in major. By means, feminism has an ideology is originated from the women's movement demanding emancipation or encouragement of rights and roles compared with men in the West¹. Accordingly, Women need an equal position with men in various aspects of life. Feminism is thus a term that emerged long after women started questioning their inferior status and demanding an amelioration in their social position.²

Feminism expands range of theories and political agendas that aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women due to sex and gender as well as class, race, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, or other forms of social exclusion³. The approach to social life, philosophy, and ethics that commits itself to correct biases leading to the subordination of women or the disparagement of women's particular experiences. Contemporary feminist ethics is sensitive to the gender bias that may be implicit in philosophical theories (for instance, philosophers' list of virtues may be typically 'manly' or cultural masculine), and in the social structures, legal and political procedures, and the general culture.⁴

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/feminism> accessed on 21/01/2019 02.00 pm.

² Jane Freedman, *Concepts in the Social Sciences Feminism*, (Buckingham: Open University Press, 2001), p. 3.

³ Feminist movement builder's dictionary second edition 2013, p. 5.

⁴ Simon Blackburn, *The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy Oxford*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), p. 170.

Discussing about Feminism and its relationship with the West, this movement actually has many flows. There are many sects such as Liberal Feminism, Radical Feminism, Marxist Feminism, Socialist Feminism, Ethnic Feminism, and Postcolonial Feminism.¹

The first sect is Radical feminism. This movement can be interpreted as a women's movement that aims at social reality. Therefore, radical feminism questions how to destroy patriarchy as a value system that entails and institutionalizes society. As for the strategy of radical feminism in order to realize these ideals is the liberation of women which can be achieved through women's organizations that have autonomy, as well as through cultural feminism.²

The second is Liberal feminism. This movement originated from a liberal political theory that wants humans individually upheld, including the value of autonomy, value of equality, and moral values that should not be forced, not indoctrinated and free to have your own judgment. Liberal feminism as a derivative of theory liberal politics. Initially liberal feminism opposed women's discrimination in legislation. They demand equality in rights select, divorce, and ownership of property. Liberal feminists emphasize similarities between women and men. The basic assumption of liberal feminism is that freedom and balance are rooted in rationalism. Basically there is no difference between men and women.³

The third is Marxist Feminism. According to the perspective of Marxist feminism, before the capitalist developed, it was the unity of production. All human needs to sustain life are carried out by all family members including women. Women no longer participate in production activities. The result of this is that there is a sexual division of labor, namely that men work in the public sector that are productive and of economic

¹ Rosemary Tong, *Feminist Thought A More Comprehensive Introduction*, (Charlotte: Westview Press, 2009), p. 3.

² *Ibid*, p. 39

³ Rosemary Tong, *Feminist Thought*..., p. 96.

value, while women work in the domestic sector which is unproductive and has no economic value.. Thus, one way to free women from family injustice is that women must enter the public sector which can generate economic value so that the concept of women's domestic work no longer exists.⁴

The fourth is Socialist Feminism. Socialist feminism is a synthesis of radical feminism and marxist feminism. The basic assumption used is that living in a capitalistic society is not the only main cause for women's backwardness, socialist feminism views women as reducing the process of public relations, and not change radical or class struggle.

The socialist feminist movement is more focused on the woman's reliance on the position of those who are oppressed. Because many women do not realize this oppression, there is a need for male participation to change people's views on equality. The aim of feminism socialist is to form socialist relations to be more humane.⁵

The fifth is Ethnic Feminism. Race feminism puts forward the issue of differences in treatment colored women.

The sixth is Postcolonial Feminism. The basis of the views of postcolonial feminism is rooted in the rejection of the universality of women's experience. The threat of women living in third world countries (colonies / former colonies) is different from women from the first world background.

Third-world women hold the burden of oppression more severe because in addition to experiencing gender-based oppression, they also experience oppression between nations, ethnicities, races, and religions. The dimensions of colonialism became a postcolonial main feminism focus which essentially sued colonialism, both physical, knowledge, values, methods view, as well as community mentality.⁶

However, researchers will discuss one of the sect of feminism above,

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 133.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 200.

⁶ Rosemary Tong, *Feminist Thought...*, p. 272.

namely Liberal Feminism which departs from liberal political ideas based on freedom.

Liberalism is the political thought from which liberal feminism evolves. The process of reconceptualization, reconsideration, and restructuring feminism itself. However, because of this transformation, it is difficult to determine the exact status of liberal feminist thought. Liberal feminism has largely outgrown its original base, and must first understand the assumptions of both classical and welfare liberalism. The thing we have then to do is understanding the assumptions of liberalism itself. Because it could be, liberal feminists are only “Liberals” in just a few ways.⁷

Liberal Feminism is a form of response to the development of liberalism. For this reason, the background of liberal thinking needs to be given. Mainstream liberalism in the late 18th and 19th centuries, in any form, offered a form of thought in which individual is a descendent of the Enlightenment concept of an autonomous rational being and political equality is associated with that ability to reason. In this context, Liberal feminism pointed out that Liberal, supposedly universal standards of humanity, equality and reason were not, in fact universal because the women were denied full social participation, public life, and education.⁸

Discussion about feminism we will always remain the history of this movement. The first wave refers to late 19th century feminism and the beginning of the 20th century who wanted to give equal rights to women, especially the right to own. while the second wave according feminist activities in the late 1960s, because of the manifestation of protests regarding women’s inequality, even though women currently lack of political rights, but they have equal rights in the fields of family, work, and sexuality.⁹ Third wave feminism refers more to thoughts that want to really categorize what

⁷ Rosemary Tong, *Feminist Thought...*, p. 11.

⁸ Chris Beasley, *Gender and Sexuality, Critical Theories Critical Thinkers*, (London: Sage Publication, 2005), p. 30.

⁹ Jane Freedman, *Concept in the Social...*, p. 4.

the woman herself is like. Here feminists emphasize the category of women in seeking their new identity and arousing the spirit of “Gender Issues”. Something that should be notice, from the first, second, or third wave feminism, they discussion about redefining about women has always done.¹⁰

Liberal feminism define of the principles of liberalism which believe that the main purpose of social life is freedom. Individual freedom is seen as an ideal condition because with freedom one can choose to satisfy his expression of things desired. Liberal feminism assumes that the patriarchal system can be destroyed by changing the attitudes of each individual, especially the attitudes of women in relation to men. Women must be aware and demand their rights. This demand will make men aware and if this awareness is evenly distributed then new awareness will form a new society, where men and women work together on the basis of equality¹¹.

Considering these issue the writer will analyze Women Freedom on Liberal Feminism as the topic in this thesis.

B. Problem of Study

Referring to the above background, the writer formulated the problem of this research as follows:

1. What is the women freedom on Liberal Feminism?

C. Purpose of Study

Based on the problem above, this research purpose on:

- 1.To find out about women freedom on Liberal Feminism

D. Importance of Study

The writer is asked to give a valuable contribution, especially for the following purposes:

¹⁰ Rosemary Tong, *Feminist Thought...*, p. 9.

¹¹ Alfian Rokhmansyah, *Pengantar Gender dan Feminisme Pemahaman Awal Kritik Sastra Feminisme*, (Yogyakarta: Garudhawca, 2016), p. 51.

1. Academic Type:

- To describe Liberal Feminism on women freedom.

2. Social Type:

- To prove for the Feminist that the women freedom in their concept not true freedom in accordance with religious regulation.

E. Literature Review

In order for researchers to better understand the direction of the discussion of Liberal Feminism on Women Freedom, and emphasize more that this research is a new study, research on previous studies is needed to serve as a reference. Among them:

1. ***Wanita Dalam Agama Kristen Protestan (Studi Analisis Tentang Kedudukan Dan Peran Wanita)*** a thesis. Written by Mohd Najmi Bin MD Mukhtar a graduate of Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau period 2010. In this research describe the role of woman in Christian Protestant and the sociology in Protestant. However, he is not described women's right on Liberal Feminism.¹²
2. ***Feminisme Sebagai Diskursus Pandangan Hidup*** Journal Kalimah Vol.11, No. 2, September 2013, written by Abdullah Muslich Rizal Maulana a student of Institute of Islamic Studies Darussalam Gontor, in his journal he has describe about all historical typologies of feminism.
3. ***Wanita Karir Perspektif Gender Dalam Hukum Islam Di Indonesia*** a thesis. Written by Irma Erviana a graduate of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar period 2017. In this research describe the general description of career woman and gender equality in Islam. However, she has not described gender equality in view of

¹² Mohd Najmi Bin MD Mukhtar, *Wanita Dalam Agama Kristen Protestan (Studi Analisis Tentang Kedudukan Dan Peran Wanita)*, (An Undergraduate Thesis, Faculty of Ushuluddin, Departement of Comparative Religion Faculty of Ushuluddin, Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim), Riau, 2010, p. 25.

Liberal Feminism.¹³

4. *A critic of Liberal Feminism Towards The Role of Women (in Catholic And Protestant Churches)* a thesis. Written by Sayekti Ningsih Lasahi a graduate of University of Darussalam Gontor period 2018. In this research describe about the critic of liberal feminism towards the role of women in Catholic and protestant churches¹⁴. However, she has not described women's freedom in Liberal Feminism.

Judging from the literature review above, starting from review number one to number four researchers have not found a discussion that addresses the issues surrounding women's freedom according to liberal feminism. therefore, this research can be said to have renewal in science.

F. Theoretical Framework

Feminism always questions and issues about oppression and injustice that causes women to experience discriminatory treatment, get harassment, humiliation, and marginalization in almost all systems and structures of society.¹⁵ Therefore, feminist fighters demand the existence of rights that are owned in principle. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DUHAM 1948) does not specifically explain the rights of women to women, but every person's rights and freedoms are without discrimination, including not discriminating on the basis of sex. Therefore, each country has an obligation to guarantee the human rights of women's groups such as

¹³ Irma Erviana, *Wanita Karir Perspektif Gender Dalam Hukum Islam di Indonesia*, (An Undergraduate Thesis, Faculty of Syariah and Law, Departement of Judicial Procedure Law and Family Studies, Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin), Makassar, 2017, p. 55.

¹⁴ Sayekti Ningsih Lasahi, *Critic of Liberal Feminism Towards the Role of Women (in Catholic and Protestant Churches)*, (An Undergraduate Thesis, Faculty of Ushuluddin, Departement of Comparative Religion Faculty of Ushuluddin University of Darussalam Gontor, Ponorogo, p. 23.

¹⁵ Dianita Aprissa L, *Feminisme Dari Perspektif Protestan*, Jurnal Musawa, Vol. 13, No. 2, Desember 2014.

guarantees to other groups.¹⁶

Actually, this movement of women or feminism is essentially not a movement that wants revenge with men. But the transformation of women's movement is a process to create good relations between men and women to be better and new. This relationship includes economic, political, cultural, ideological, environmental relations, and includes relationships between men and women.

But the fighters of the women's movement are more fighting for gender justice which is the hardest task because gender issues themselves are a very intense problem and the process of finding a solution needs to be carried out comprehensively. In relation to that, there is a movement of thought which we often hear as feminism. Feminism itself cannot be separated from the political context. Feminism is politically-minded because it always challenges the structure of the interaction of power between men and women. In this context male and female are not understood biologically, namely as sex (sex), but are understood culturally, which is more commonly known as gender.¹⁷

Gender inequality itself becomes a global phenomenon that has spread among the people. Because sex differences indicate gender differences, where women are irrational, emotional, and gentle, while men have rational, strong and powerful qualities. Gender differences do not actually cause problems, but the problem is gender differences that lead to various injustices and especially against women. Because biologically or naturally women with their reproductive organs are able to conceive, give birth and breastfeed, then gender roles emerge as nurses and caregivers. Thus the problem is not the gender role, but the structure of gender inequalities

¹⁶ Niken Savitri, *HAM Perempuan Kritis Teori Hukum Feminis Terhadap KUHP*, (Bandung: PT Refika Aditama, 2008), p.2.

¹⁷ Riant Nugroho, *Gender dan Strategi Pengarus-Utamanya di Indonesia*, (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2011), p 61-62.

arising from gender roles and gender differences.¹⁸

Feminist research illustrates how feminists live by collecting data so that feminists can be the subject of research because the writer wants to analyze freedom from the feminist perspective.¹⁹ In an effort to understand women's freedom in liberal feminism, the author uses a theological approach. This approach can be interpreted as an effort to understand religion by using the framework of Godhead which departs from a belief that the empirical form of religion is considered the most correct compared to the others.²⁰

G. Method of Study

1. Source of Data

To arrive at scientific insights in this discussion, the writer uses library research (Library Research), which is the collection of scientific insights and explanations using various written books or sources, which consist of primary and secondary book sources. From here the writer hopes that this research will open up new insights about Liberal Feminism on Women Freedom. These sources consist of:

a. Primary Data

To get a good explanation of Liberal Feminism on Women Freedom the writer has collected some data for her resource.

1. *Feminism Thought A More Comprehensive Introduction*, written by Rosemary Tong (Westview Press, Charlotte, 2009). It describes liberal feminism, conceptual roots of liberal feminism

¹⁸ Riant Nugroho, *Gender dan Administrasi Publik studi tentang kesetaraan gender dalam administrasi public Indonesia pasca reformasi 1998-2002*, (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2008), p. 39-40.

¹⁹ Michael Strausberg and Steven Engler, *The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in the Study of Religion*, (USA and Canada: Routledge 2011), p. 54-55.

²⁰ Abuddin Nata, *Metodologi Studi Islam*, (Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 1998, cetakan pertama), p. 28.

thought and action, a personage of liberal feminism, and its organization.

2. *The Law of Father*, written by Mary Murray (Routledge, London 1995). It describes the gender, feminist, and patriarchy.
3. *Feminism and Freedom*, written by Michael Levin (New Brunswick USA and Oxford UK, 1988). It describes Feminism and Liberty.
4. *No Turning Back*, written by Estelle B. Freedman (Ballantine Books, New York, 2002). It describes the history of feminism, gender, women's right and violence.
5. *Pengantar Gender dan Feminisme Pemahaman Awal Kritik Sastra Feminisme*, written by Alifian Rokhmansyah (Garudhawaca, Yogyakarta 2016). It describe about all things related to feminism.

b. Secondary Data

For completing the research, the writer collects some data that including books, journals, website, etc to help the writer understanding the main of the problem.

2. Data Analysis Method

The method used by the writer in finding the data that will be used to arrive at the purpose of the discussion, to facilitate the author in writing, and to explore the discussion, also to fulfill the understanding of Liberal Feminism on Women Freedom, the methods are as follows:

1. Descriptive Method, which is a study that aims to make a description of a particular situation. Descriptive research generally describes the state of the region or a particular phenomenon without giving an analysis of the collected data²¹. With this method, the author intends to describe women's

²¹ M. Aslam Sumhudi, *Komposisi Desain Riset*, (Jakarta: Lembaga Penelitian Universitas Trisakti, 1985), p. 44.

freedom in liberal feminist ideology.

2. Analysis Method, which is a method that seeks and obtains information relating to the title of the discussion as much as possible and can take value from it²². With this method, the author wants to convey the freedom that liberal feminists want.

H. System of Writing

To make this research easy, the writer divided the research into four chapters; Chapter one: an Introduction, containing the background of the study, the problem of study, the purpose of the study, the importance of study, literature review, theoretical framework, a method of study, and system of study.

Chapter two: will explain about the definition and history of liberal feminism, the figure of liberal feminism including Mary Wollstonecraft, John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill, Betty Friedan and the impact from the presence liberal feminism.

Chapter three: will explain Liberal Feminism about women's freedom. That this chapter describes women's freedom according to the Liberal Feminism including how the women free from threats and violence, free from patriarchy and moral law, the equality of the gender, and all about women's right.

Chapter four: Closing, containing the result of the study, suggestion, and closing.

²² Moh. Nazir, *Metode Penelitian*, (Jakarta: Ghalia Indonesia, 1983), p. 405.